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The author concludes by proposing methods by which the inquiry should in future be conducted, so as to obviate or eliminate this source of error. Such an inquiry, he remarks, would, by exhibiting the magnetic and diamagnetic powers under new aspects, lead, in all probability, to important consequences.

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March 18, 1847.

The MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON, President, in the Chair.

J. R. Christie, Esq. and Thomas Webster, Esq. were elected into the Society.

“Researches to determine the Number of Species and the Mode of Development of the British Triton.” By J. Higginbottom, Esq., F.R.C.S. Communicated by Thomas Bell, Esq., F.R.S.

The observations of the author, of which he gives a detailed account in the present memoir, have led him to the following conclusions:—

Two species only of the genus Triton are met with in England; namely, the *Triton verrucosus* and the *Lisso-triton punctatus*. It is three years before the animal is capable of propagating its species, and four years before it attains its full growth. In its tadpole state, it remains in the water till its legs acquire sufficient strength to qualify it for progressive motion on land. While a land animal, it is in an active state during the summer, and passes the winter in a state of hibernation; but does not then, as has been erroneously supposed, remain at the bottom of pools. Very dry, or very wet situations are incompatible with the preservation of life during the period of hibernation. At the expiration of the third year, the triton revisits the water, in the spring season, for the purposes of reproduction, and again leaves it at the commencement of autumn. Impregnation is accomplished through the medium of water, and not by actual contact. The growth and development of the triton are materially influenced by temperature, and but little by the action of light. The triton possesses the power of reproducing its lost limbs, provided the temperature be within the limits of 58° and 75° Fahrenheit; but at lower temperatures, and during the winter, it has no such power.

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April 15, 1847.

The MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON, President, in the Chair.

William Baly, M.D., Thomas Flower Ellis, Esq., John Gorham Maitland, Esq., and W. H. C. Plowden, Esq. were elected into the Society.